

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

*The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:*

**Listing of Claims:**

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1. (Currently Amended) A coupling unit, comprising:  
a connecting area for connecting to a transmitting and/or receiving module;  
a holding sleeve configured to receive an optical fiber within the holding sleeve; and  
a transparent coupling area configured for directly contacting the optical fiber and for directly coupling light between the optical fiber and the optical transmitting and/or receiving module when the optical fiber is inserted into said holding sleeve and the optical transmitting and/or receiving module is connected to said connecting area; and  
a horizontally running base plate formed with said coupling area therein, said base plate having an upper face connected to said holding sleeve, a lower face connected to said connecting area, and a cutout passing through said base plate;  
said transparent coupling area formed integral with said holding sleeve and said connecting area.
  2. (Previously Presented) The coupling unit according to claim 1, wherein:  
said coupling area has a side facing said holding sleeve that forms a projecting stop surface for the optical fiber; and  
said stop surface is for directly contacting a fiber core of the optical fiber when the optical fiber is inserted into said holding sleeve.
  3. (Previously Presented) The coupling unit according to claim 2, wherein:  
said holding sleeve defines a longitudinal axis; and  
said stop surface runs at right angles to said longitudinal axis of said holding sleeve.